

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0004] in the published version of the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph [0004]:

-- [0004] Another feature of liftgate windows [[is]] that is often considered unappealing is the handle attached directly onto the liftgate window in order to open it. --

Please insert the following paragraph after the heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS" and before paragraph [0006] in the published version of the above-captioned application:

-- Advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein: --

Please replace paragraph [0010] in the published version of the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph [0010]:

-- [0010] As shown in FIG. 1, [[the]] a male connector portion 10 of the connector system comprises a housing 12, a bottom opening 23 for receiving a sliding cover 16 therein, which cover 16 extends ~~is received~~ through a top opening 28 of housing 12. Lip 29 acts as a stop to limit the outward travel of cover 16 so as to prevent sliding cover 16 from completely exiting top opening 28. Sliding cover 16 comprises receiving chamber 27, with bottom opening 25, and opening 26 at the opposite end of opening 25. Opening 25 permits receipt of terminal pin 22 into receiving chamber 27. There may also be reinforcing material 21 extending along the sides of terminal pin 22. The reinforcing material 21 may be made, for example, from a stiff plastic or a light metal such as aluminum. Terminal pin 22 is exposed outside of opening 26 when sliding cover 16 does not protrude through opening 28. When sliding cover 16 completely protrudes through opening 28 so that lip 29 abuts against housing 12, the cover 16 extends the outer length of terminal pin 22 to shroud the pin 22. Terminal pin 22 is affixed within the stem of T-shaped housing cover 20. Reinforcing material 21 may also extend along terminal pin 22 so that it is connected to or abuts against housing cover 20. A wire (not shown) may extend from the bottom

of terminal pin 22 and through the reinforcement 21 and/or housing cover 20 to connect to an electrical source or a section of the vehicle which requires electricity. The wire may be sealed or unsealed. Housing cover 20 covers opening 23 of housing 12. The housing cover 20 may be unsecured to the housing 12, or secured with fasteners such as screws. Optionally, the housing cover 20 may snap into the housing 12. Spring 14 is situated between housing cover 20 and the bottom of lip 29. Spring 14 becomes compressed when sliding cover 16 is retracted within housing 12. Therefore, sliding cover 16 is biased to protrude through opening 28, i.e., as shown in hidden lines as one of the positions in FIG. 1. In order to bias the sliding cover 16 to protrude through opening 28, the spring 14 must be at least strong enough, or have enough force, to bias the sliding cover 16 to completely shroud terminal pin 22. When, for example, a liftgate window is in the open position and the terminals become disengaged, the sliding cover 16 slides over the terminal pin 22 to help protect it from becoming damaged or from contacting other elements. --

Please replace paragraph [0012] in the published version of the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph [0012]:

-- [0012] As shown in FIG. 2, [[the]] a female connector portion 30 of the connector system comprises an upper housing 32 and lower housing 34. Upper housing 32 has opening 40 to receive terminal pin 22 of the male connector portion 10. Lower housing 34 comprises female terminals 38. Female terminals 38 may comprise upper portions 44 which are bent towards the sides of the lower housing 34 so that female terminals 38 together generally form a Y shape. The size of opening 40 would generally not exceed the distance between upper [[edges]] portions 44 of female terminals 38. The width of female terminals 38 would generally be greater than the width of terminal pin 22 to accommodate movements of terminal pin 22 due to movements of the vehicle without breaking the electrical connection. Female terminals 38 are biased towards each other by springs 36. Wire 42 is connected to the female terminals 38 at one end, and connected to a section of the vehicle which requires electricity at the other end, such as a defrost system of the liftgate window, or to a section which provides electricity. --

Please replace paragraph [0014] in the published version of the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph [0014]:

-- [0014] When the female connector portion ~~conneector~~ 30 is unengaged, female terminals 38 are in touching condition and compressed by springs 36, which are loaded inside of female connector ~~housing portion~~ 30. Springs 36 should be the same strength to insure nominal positions of the terminals 38. Terminals 38 can slide in direction of the springs 36. --

Please replace paragraph [0015] in the published version of the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph [0015]:

-- [0015] An alternative embodiment for the female connector portion 30 is to have a metal plate on the bottom of the lower housing 34 to supply electrical energy to the female terminals 38. The metal plate would be in contact with the sliding female terminals 38. This contact may be self-cleaning due to the sliding action of the female terminals 38. The metal plate would replace the need for wire 42. The metal plate would be electrically connected to a section of the vehicle which requires electricity, such as a defrost system of the liftgate window, or to a section which provides electricity. --

Please replace paragraph [0016] in the published version of the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph [0016]:

-- [0016] As shown in FIG. 3, male connector portion 10 contacts female connector portion 30 through the top of housing 12 and the surface of upper housing 32. Sliding cover 16 is retractably forced into opening 28 by the interaction with the surface of upper housing 32. When the male 10 and female 30 connector portions are engaged, terminal pin 22 is received between female terminals 38 in abutting electrical contact therewith. The Y-shape of the female terminals 38 helps to guide the terminal pin 22 between the two female terminals 38 if the terminal pin 22 is off its nominal position. The nominal position would allow the male terminal pin 22 to slide between female terminals 38 without touching bent portions 44. --

Please replace paragraph [0017] in the published version of the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph [0017]:

-- [0017] When in operation, female connector portion 30 may be located on the bottom of a liftgate glass (or any other glass or section of the vehicle, that requires defrost system or electrical connection) facing into the vehicle and male connector portion 10 is located on the liftgate module or other alternative mounting surfaces (sheet metal, reinforcement brackets and other) or vice-versa, if more beneficial. When the liftgate window is in a closed position, the upper housing 32 of the female connector portion 30 causes the retraction of sliding cover 16 to expose terminal pin 22. As it becomes exposed, terminal pin 22 enters through opening 40 and slides between female terminals 38 to create an electrical connection. The size of housing 12 of male connector portion 10 controls travel distance of the sliding cover 16, and therefore the housing 12 is generally of a size to accommodate a sliding cover 16 that will fully shroud terminal pin 22 when the sliding cover 16 is extended through opening 28. When engaged, the male 10 and female 30 connectors will move relatively to each other for certain distances due to movement of the gate relative to the body of the vehicle, when the vehicle is moving. Springs 36 allow sliding female terminals 38 of the female connector portion 30 to self-adjust as the vehicle is moving so that they follow the movement of terminal pin 22, thereby providing constant electrical connection. Female terminals 38 will be manufactured within tolerable build variation as specified by the Original Engineering Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to ensure constant connection with male terminal pin 22 in cross car direction and other movements that a vehicle will make when in motion. --

Please replace paragraph [0018] in the published version of the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph [0018]:

-- [0018] The connector can also act as a glass window flipper device. A glass flipper device may be devised by using the interaction of the surfaces of the male 10 and female 30 connectors which are interacting when the terminal pin 22 and female terminals 38 are engaged. When the liftgate window is in the closed position, and the terminal pin 22 and female terminals 38 are engaged, the closed window may be secured by an electrical or mechanical device, such as the ratchet of the glass latch. By increasing the strength or force of springs 14 of

the male connector portion 10 so that it can push the weight of the liftgate window, the sliding cover 16 will push the liftgate glass for a specified distance and will hold the glass in the open position, until the glass can be operated manually. Springs 14 of a force suitable to lift a window according to this embodiment of the invention will be required. The glass window flipper device will be capable of pushing the glass outwardly to the point where the forces of the glass struts will set the glass to the fully open position. The glass flipper device may be activated by release of the glass latch or other locking mechanisms. --